

REMARKS

Status

Claims 1-18 will be pending up entry of this amendment.

No new matter would be added upon entry of this amendment.

Discussion

Applicants submit that the June 18, 2004, Office Action incorrectly states that only Claims 1-4, 6, and 13-18 are pending. Claims 1-18 are pending in the above-identified application. The July 9, 2002, did not cancel any claims. It only amended Claims 1-4, 6, and 13-18. Applicants do note that only Claims 1-4, 6, and 13-18 were presented in the July 9, 2002 amendment. The current practice at that time was to only present amended claims, not all pending claims. Applicants respectfully request consideration of Claims 1-18.

Applicants thank Examiner Truong for indicating that Claims 6 and 18 would be allowable if written in independent format. Applicants presume that Claim 12 also contains allowable subject matter since it, like Claim 18, depends from Claim 6.

The rejection of Claims 1-4 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph, has been obviated by appropriate amendment.

Applicants have amended the claims to expedite prosecution, even though it is believe that the provisos removed from claim were supported by In re Johnson and Farnham, 558 F.2d 1008, 194 USPQ 187 (CCPA, 1977). Provisos (a) and (b) have been removed in view of the amendments to Z (bond was deleted) and A (only 5-6 membered rings are now recited). These amendments are supported by Claim 2 and Claim 4, respectively. The proviso relating to ring D has been removed in view of the deletion of rings q, t, u, and t₁

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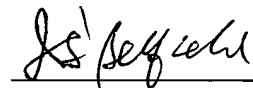
Amendment

from the claims. These rings were the subject of the parent application, now US 6,339,099, of which the above-identified application is a divisional. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or believes further discussion will aid examination and advance prosecution of the application, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

Respectfully submitted,

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